



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## NOTICE: USE OF LEVONORGESTREL FOR EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

This notice serves as a reminder that the latest Family Planning Chapter of the Primary Healthcare Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) ONLY recommends the use of Levonorgestrel, **OR** Copper IUCD for emergency contraception.

The recommended dose for levonorgestrel is:

**Levonorgestrel 1.5mg, oral, as a single dose as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse, and not later than 5 days.**

- If the woman vomits within 2 hours, repeat the dose.

The updated Family Planning Chapter and supporting National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) report can be accessed at: <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south>

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees to ensure the appropriate use of the recommended treatment for emergency contraception. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Queries may be submitted via e-mail to:

E-mail: [SAEDP@health.gov.za](mailto:SAEDP@health.gov.za)

Kind regards

**DR MR MAKUA**  
**CHIEF DIRECTOR: WOMEN, MATERNAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**  
**DATE: 2022 August 29**

**MS K JAMALOODIEN**  
**DIRECTOR: AFFORDABLE MEDICINES**  
**DATE: 29/08/2022**